



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MAY 7, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Recent moisture events improved drought conditions across the State, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 30 percent of the State was under drought conditions, down from 44 percent last week, and down from 91 percent a year ago. Forty-four percent of the State was rated under no drought conditions, comparatively, the entire State was under drought conditions at this time last year. Northwestern counties continued to experience flooding due to melting snow. Reporters noted wet fields and residual snowbanks were preventing fieldwork. Snowpack in the area ranged from 128 to 147 percent measured as a percent of median snowfall according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA. In northeastern and east central counties, isolated moisture had improved conditions in some areas, with the northeastern corner receiving measurable moisture last week. Warm temperatures helped winter wheat growth and pasture green up. In the San Luis Valley, a primarily dry week helped barley and potato planting progress quickly. Slow soil warm up kept potato planting behind the average, with 33 percent of the crop planted, compared to the 5-year average of 51 percent. Barley planting was nearing the end in the district, and emergence had picked up due to warm temperatures. Reporters noted pastures started to green up with recent moisture, but long-term pasture health was still a concern. Southeastern counties remained primarily dry last week, but recent moisture events improved drought conditions across the district. Extreme drought conditions in Custer, Fremont, and Pueblo Counties were downgraded to moderate drought conditions last week. Drought conditions in Baca County also improved, but 41 percent of the county was still under extreme to exceptional drought conditions, down from 66 percent the previous week. Winter wheat conditions were rated very poor to fair in the district. Moisture in southwestern counties was primarily received in the high-country of Delta and Mesa Counties last week. Warmer than average temperatures were prevalent last week according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center. Calving across the State was almost complete, with 95 percent of cows calved. As of May 7, 2023, snowpack in Colorado was 133 percent measured as a percent of median snowfall according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA. Southwest and San Luis Valley snowpack were 207 and 118 percent of the median, respectively. Stored feed supplies were rated 14 percent very short, 31 percent short, 54 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 1 percent heavy, 49 percent average, and 50 percent light. Cattle death loss was 2 percent heavy, 35 percent average, and 63 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Planted	80	60	83	90
Emerged.....	30	16	50	62
Corn				
Planted	22	6	22	29
Onions				
Planted	50	25	43	58
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Planted	33	9	46	51
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Planted	36	26	38	48
Proso Millet				
Planted	4	1	--	3
Sorghum				
Planted	9	3	--	2
Sugarbeets				
Planted	30	13	44	61
Winter wheat				
Jointed.....	39	25	53	58
Headed.....	1	--	--	2
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	95	91	95	94
NA – not available (--) – zero				

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION				
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	6.3	5.1	4.1	5.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	15	10	38	18
Short	30	25	30	25
Adequate	52	63	27	54
Surplus	3	2	5	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	18	11	31	18
Short	34	39	44	28
Adequate	46	48	25	53
Surplus	2	2	--	1
NA – not available (--) – zero				

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	5	3	5	3
Poor.....	8	11	6	6
Fair.....	29	27	34	23
Good	49	50	55	58
Excellent.....	9	9	--	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	11	10	21	14
Poor.....	25	25	21	17
Fair	35	32	24	30
Good	28	32	34	38
Excellent.....	1	1	--	1
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	14	10	24	12
Poor.....	33	27	34	17
Fair	31	35	31	30
Good	21	24	11	36
Excellent.....	1	4	--	5
Livestock				
Very poor.....	2	1	4	1
Poor.....	15	12	11	6
Fair	35	35	26	21
Good	42	51	52	64
Excellent.....	6	1	7	8

NA – not available
 (--) – zero